(*b*) Was this transfer intended to be permanent or only temporary?

(*c*) What is the expenditure involved in this transfer on account of the travelling expenses, etc., of the Anchal Superintendent and his staff?

(*d*) Has the whole staff of the Superintendent been transferred to the new head-quarters?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) and (*b*) The head-quarters of the Anchal Superintendent was temporarily located at Nagercoil for a month from the 1st Vrischikam, 1099. It was done at the request of the Anchal Superintendent who was compelled to stay at Nagercoil for a month owing to certain domestic circumstances.

(*c*) The expenditure involved is nominal, being only the actual travelling expenses of a clerk and a peon who accompanied the Anchal Superintendent to Nagercoil and back. The Anchal Superintendent was not allowed any travelling or halting allowance.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

*Customs House Inspector, Alleppey.*

169. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*):

(*a*) Who is the Inspector in charge of the Alleppey Customs House?

(*b*) How long has he been in charge of this Customs House?

(*c*) Have there been any complaints against this Inspector from the merchants of Alleppey?

(*d*) Was there a general transfer of Inspectors during the reorganisation of the Excise Department in Tulam, 1098, and in Kanni, 1099?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Mr. W. J. Cleur.

(*b*) He has been in charge of the institution since 15th Edavam 1095.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Some of the Inspectors were transferred in Tulam, 1098, in connection with the reorganisation of the department. In Kanni, 1099, a few Inspectors, not included in the previous list, were transferred.

*Kolevila for Timber.*

170. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) the rates of *kolevila* allowed to contractors in different parts of the State for the extraction and supply of forest timber at the several Government depôts; and

(2) whether the rate of *kolevila* has increased generally during the last five years, and, if so, in what proportion?

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[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) The rates of *kolevila* vary according to the species of timber to be worked down and the distance of the felling areas from the depôts. They average, at present, from 8 to 14 annas per cubic foot.

(2) Yes. There was an increase in recent years. The increase ranges from 1 to 2 annas per cubic foot. In 1098, however, there was a decrease in most places.

*Irregularities in re Extraction and Sale of Timber.*

171. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) whether all contracts for the extraction of timber and all sales of timber were properly advertised and whether tenders were called for during the last two years; and

(2) whether it is not a common practice that, subsequent to the opening of tenders, statements are recorded from certain tenderers and others and that contracts are given to them by private negotiation?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Contracts are settled by negotiation only when tenderers are not forthcoming or when the rates tendered by them are found unacceptable.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state what they mean by the words "found unacceptable"? Do they mean that the tender is not sufficiently low or the tenderer has not got sufficient security?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): 'Unacceptable' is what cannot be accepted in the interests of the department. That might be due to a variety of reasons.

*Private Timber Depôts of Supply Contractors.*

172. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) the number and names of timber-supply contractors who own private sale depôts in the neighbourhood of Government sale depôts;

(2) the number and names of such contractors who have their private sale depôts at places higher up the routes along which timber is floated down to Government depôts; and

(3) whether the proximity of such private depôts does not adversely affect the sale at Government depôts?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) and (2). No supply contractor of the department has any private sale depôt near Government sale depôts or anywhere higher up

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